

19
24.

A method according to Claim ¹³18, wherein the particular gas consists of an inert

gas. --

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-24 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 14-18 are independent.


Claim 7 has been amended to clarify features of the invention. Claims 19-24 have been added to recite additional features of the invention. Support for these changes can be found in the application, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these changes.

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 11, 12, and 14-18 were previously allowed in this application. Applicants submit that dependent claims 19-24 likewise should be deemed allowable.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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APPENDIX A

IN THE CLAIMS:

7.(Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein [said] the particular gas consists of an inert gas.